

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 080646Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0393

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3579

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, SF

SUBJ: ARMS EMBARGO: END USER CHECK ON TELEDYNE DIESEL
ENGINES

1. IN RESPONSE DOD REQUEST FOR END USER CHECK ON 300 MODEL
AVDS 1790-2A DIESEL ENGINES ORDERED BY GENERAL COMPONENT (PTY.)
LTD., PRETORIA, AND DEPARTMENT'S MEMCONS SAME SUBJECT, EMBOFF
VISITED GENERAL COMPONENTS' CHURCH STREET OFFICES AUGUST 5 FOR
DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT WITH COMPANY MANAGING DIRECTOR, LOUIS
OSSIP. OSSIP CLAIMED ENGINES TO BE USED TO POWER LARGE ORE
CARRYING VEHICLES FOR ISCOR. SAID ISCOR ORDERED VEHICLES AS
PART OF PLANNED R 1,000 MILLION EXPANSION PROGRAM INVOLVING
CONSTRUCTION EW WORKS SALDANHA BAY AND PRETORIA. VEHICLES TO
BE DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED BY "VERY LARGE SOUTH AFRICAN
ENGINEERING FIRM" WHICH OSSIP SAID HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY AT
THIS TIME. EACH VEHICLE, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE 150 TON CAPACITY
FOR SHORT HAULS BETWEEN MINES AND WORKS OR RAILHEADS. OSSIP
CLAIMED BUILDERS PREFERRED DEMILITARIZED VERSION OF ENGINE
SINCE NO REPEAT NO MILITARY USAGE CONTEMPLATED.

2. ALTHOUGH OSSIP INSISTED HE UNABLE PROVIDE NAME OF COMPANY
WHICH BUILDING ORE-CARRIERS, HE SAID HE WOULD BE ABLE
PROVIDE "DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE" STATED END-USE THESE ENGINES
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WITHIN TWO WEEKS. ALSO SAID THAT HE MAY BE ABLE IDENTIFY

VEHICLE MANUFACTURER AT THAT TIME.

3. COMMENT: IN EMBASSY VIEW, UTILIZATION OF ENGINES TO POWER ORE-CARRIERS FOR ISCOR HAS PLAUSIBLE RING. ISCOR IS ENGAGED IN MASSIVE EXPANSION PROGRAM AND UNDOUBTEDLY HAS NEED LARGE PAYLOAD CARRIERS OF SOME SORT TO MOVE ORE. STILL, POSSIBILITY THAT ENGINES MAY BE USED TO REPOWER CENTURIONS HAS NOT BEEN DISMISSED. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT LICENSE APPLICATION BE SUSPENDED PENDING RECEIPT NEW INFORMATION AND "DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE" PROMISED PARA 2 ABOVE.

4. FYI: ACCORDING INFORMATION OBTAINED BY CONGEN JOHANNESBURG, GENERAL COMPONENTS ESTABLISHED 1965 AS AGENT FOR AUTOMOTIVE PARTS, SMALL MACHINE TOOLS AND SMALL TOOLS. IT MEDIUM SIZED FIRM EMPLOYING SEVEN PERSONS INCLUDING TWO SALESMEN. REPRESENTS SEVERAL OVERSEAS COMPANIES INCLUDING SANDENBERG, INC., NEW YORK; AMES AUTO SUPPLY INC., U.S.A.; SECCO TOOLS, INC., TORONTO; AND LEVY AUTO PARTS, TORONTO. BANK CHECK (BARCLAYS) REVEALED THAT FIRM STRONG FINANCIALLY AND BANK MANAGER CLAIMED OSSIPS (FATHER AND SON) MEN OF HIGH INTEGRITY AND CONSIDERABLY BUSINESS ACUMEN. DURING VISIT TO CHURCH ST. OFFICES, EMBOFF NOTED THAT, IN ADDITION GENERAL COMPONENTS, FOUR OTHER COMPANIES LISTED ON BUILDING DIRECTORY AS HEADED BY OSSIP. THESE ARE FOOT-JOY, DU TOIT ST. PROPERTIES, NORTHERN TRANSVAAL DISCOUNT CO., AN IMPEXPORT. OFFICES, HOWEVER, CONSISTED OF ONLY THREE SMALL ROOMS, ONE OCCUPIED BY SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST, ONE BY OSSIP JUNIOR AND ONE BY OSSIP SENIOR -- NONE OF WHOM APPEARED HAVE ANYTHING TO DO.
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